

Message Text

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INFO AMCONSUL GUADALAJARA

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 0033

EO 11652: GDS

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SUBJECT: MONTHLY POLITICAL HIGHLIGHTS -- DECEMBER

1. SUMMARY: MEXICO'S "EXPLANATION" OF ITS VOTE ON ZIONISM, LEADING TO RESIGNATION OF FORSEC RABASA, DOMINATED NEWS IN DEC. PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE JOSE LOPEZ PORTILLO LIVENED UP A BIT AN OTHERWISE UNSPECTACULAR CAMPAIGN WITH SPEECH TO PUEBLA BUSINESSMEN STRESSING HIS COMMITMENT TO IDEA OF GREATER SOCIAL JUSTICE, BUT CAMPAIGN HAS STILL AROUSED LITTLE INTEREST. MEXICAN COMMUNIST PARTY DECIDED TO WAGE WRITE-IN CAMPAIGN, WHILE PPS AND PARM STUCK TO THEIR "SATELLITE PARTY". TRADITION OF SUPPORTING PRI CANDIDATE. PAN WILL TRY AGAIN JAN. 25 TO SELECT CANDIDATE AFTER RENOVATION OF PARTY LEADERSHIP. END SUMMARY.

2. ZIONSIM VOTE EXPLANATION LEADS TO RABASA RESIGNATION.

MEXICO'S IDENTITY WITH THIRD WORLD POLICIES CAME UP AGAINST HARD REALITY OF DEPENDENCE ON DEVELOPED WORLD IN ISSUE OF UN RESOLUTION EQUATING ZIONSIM WITH RACISM.

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FACED WITH TOURISM BOYCOTT FROM US JEWISH COMMUNITY, GOM

MET PRIVATELY WITH US JEWISH LEADERS AND THEN SENT FORSEC RABASA TO TEL AVIV TO /EXPLAIN/ MEXICO'S POSITION. LOOKING MORE LIKE AN APOLOGY AND REQUEST FOR PARDON THAN EXPLANATION, RABASA MISSION DREW HEAVY CIRITICISM HERE AND APPARENTLY WAS STRAW WHICH BROKE CAMEL'S BACK. RABASA RESIGNED DEC. 29 TO BE REPLACED BY MEX AMB TO UN ALFONSO GARCIS ROBELS. MEXICAN FOR POLICY IN RECENT MONTHS (RE SAPING, BELIZE, AND ZIONSIM) HAS BECOME EMBRASSMENT TO MEXICANS AND THEREFORE TO ECHEVERRIA HIMSELF, ALTHOUGH HE CLEARLY MADE POLICIES. AS IS MEXICAN CUSTOM, RABASA RECIEVED DIRECTLY CRITICISM INTENDED INDIRECTLY FOR ECHEVERRIA AND BY ACCEPTING RABASA'A RESIGNATION, ECHEVERRIA HAS INSULATED HIMSELF.

3. PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN -- STILL A BORE

IN SPEECH WHICH HAS NOT AROUSED MUCH COMMENT AS WE ANTICIPATED IN MEXICO 11349, PRI PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE JOSE LOPEZ PORTILLO EXPOUNDED AT LENGTH HIS IDEAS ON SOCIAL JISTICE, INVOKING CHRISTIAN ETHIC OF GOLDEN RULE, DECLARING THAT NOT MARX BUT JESUS PROVIDED GUIDE WHICH OUGHT TO GOVERN SOCIETY. NEVERTHELESS, IMPLICATIONS OF SPEECH WAS TREND TOWARDS GREATER ROLE OF STATE IN NATIONAL AFFAIRS CHARACTERISTIC OF THIS ADMINSTRATION WOULD CONTINUE UNDER JLP GOVERNMENT. OTHERWISE, JLP CAMPAIGN HAS AROUSED LITTLE INTEEST, PARTLY FOR LACK OF OPPOSITION AND PARTLY DUE TO CAUTION OF JLP HIMSELF. JLP RETURNED TO FEDERAL DISTRICT AFTRE NEW YEARS FOR THIRD TRIP THROUGH METROPOLITAN AREA, WHERE PAN INROADS HAS PRI WORRIED.

4. MINORITY PARTIES -- FINALLY SOME OPPOSITION, BUT ...

FOLLOWING TRADITON, PRI'S SATELLITE PARTIES, PPS AND PARM, ANNOUNCED THEIR SUPPORT FOR JLP DURING DEC. PPS DECISION AROUSED INTEREST BECAUSE IT FOLLOWED ON HEELS OF PRI "STEALING" GUBERNATIONAL ELECTION FROM PPS IN NAYARIT. FACTION OF PARTY

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INVOLVED IN THAT ELECTION WAS DISGRUNTELED, AND ALTHOUGH IT SUPPORTED DECISION, ITS LEADERS (ALEJANDRO GASCON MERCADO AND MANUEL STEPHAS GARCIA) WERE REMOVED FROM PPS NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL. BUT MEXICAN COMMUNIST PARTY, PCM, WHICH IS NOT REGISTERED, NOMINATED AGING VALENTINE CAMPA SALAZAR TO OPPOSE JLP IN WRITE-IN CAMPAIGN. PCM LACKS RESOURCES TO WAGE NATIONAL CAMPAIGN AND APPARNETLY WILL CONCENTRATE EFFORTS IN STATES OF

GUERRERO, OAXACA, PUBELA, AND THE FEDERAL DISTRICT.

ALTHOUGH PRI HAS POOH-POOHED PCM OPPOSITION, IT WOULD PROBABLY PREFER SUPPORT FROM OTHER /REVOLUTIONARY/ PARTIES. IF PCM CAMPAGN ATTRACTS SUPPORT, IT COULD PRESSURE PRI TO MOVE FURTHER LEFT. MEANWHILE, MODERATE RIGHTIST NATIONAL ACTION PARTY (PAN) CONTINUED WITHOUT CANDIDATE DUE TO SPLIT BETWEEN PRO AND ANTI-PARTICIPATION

FACTIONS. EFRAIN GONZALEZ MROFIN, LEADER OF LATTER GROUP, RESIGNED PAN PRESIDENCY IN MID-DEC. TO BE REPLACED BY FEDERAL DEPUTY MANUEL GONZALEZ HINOJOSA. GONZALEZ HINOJOSA APPEARS TO HAVE COOLED PASSIONS SOMEWHAT, BUT IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER DIFFERENCES CAN BE RECONCILED TO PERMIT SELECTION OF PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE IN SECOND NOMINATING CONVENTION JAN. 25.
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